

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 1, 2005. Claims 1 to 46 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, 23, 33 and 40, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Although not indicated explicitly in the Office Action, it appears that the indication of allowability in each of dependent Claims 8 to 10, 19 to 21, 29 to 31, 37, 38, 44 and 45 has been maintained. Applicants have chosen not to rewrite these claims at this time since the base claims for each of Claims 8 to 10, 19 to 21, 29 to 31, 37, 38, 44 and 45 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth below.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 7, 11 to 18, 22 to 28, 32 to 36, 39 to 43 and 46 were rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,560 (Tan). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns the storage of reproduction data, and the determination of whether such data should be reproduced. According to one feature of the invention, a determination of whether to reproduce the reproduction data is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, wherein the selection criteria is included within a rule set.

By virtue of the foregoing, in which a determination of whether to reproduce reproduction data is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data included within a rule set, data which is intended for reproduction can be filtered from data which is not intended for reproduction.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a data storing and reproducing system using a computer network. The system includes a server for storing reproduction data, and at least one attachment unit coupled to the server, the at least one attachment unit including means for interfacing with a portable memory device having a reference to the reproduction data. The system also includes first and second reproduction devices coupled to one or more of the at least one attachment unit, the first reproduction device capable of performing a first reproduction of the reproduction data and the second reproduction device capable of performing a second reproduction of the reproduction data, the second data reproduction being different than the first data reproduction. In addition, the system includes rule processing means for processing a rule set, which includes selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, to determine whether to reproduce the reproduction data based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria of the rule set. The at least one attachment unit requests the reproduction data from the server for use by the reproduction device, if the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria.

Independent Claim 12 as amended is directed to an attachment unit connectable to plural types of data processing devices. The attachment unit includes means for interfacing with a portable memory device having information including a reference to reproduction data stored on a network server, and means for processing a rule set, which includes selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, to determine whether to reproduce the reproduction data based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria of the rule set. The attachment unit also includes means for sending a request for

the reproduction data, when the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria, and means for receiving the requested reproduction data from the network server and ensuring that the requested reproduction data is in a format for use by one of the plural types of data processing devices. In addition, the attachment unit includes means for causing the at least one of the plural types of data processing devices to perform a data reproduction of the received data.

Independent Claim 23 as amended is directed to a method of storing and reproducing data on at least one of plural types of reproduction devices. The method includes the steps of storing the reproduction data on a server, and retrieving information stored on a portable memory device in response to a request to reproduce the reproduction data using one of plural types of reproduction devices, the stored information on the portable memory device corresponding to the reproduction data. The method also includes the steps of retrieving a rule set which includes selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, and using the stored information and the rule set to determine whether to reproduce the reproduction data based on whether the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria, and accessing the reproduction data on the server, if the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria. In addition, the method includes the step of reproducing the reproduction data using the requested reproduction device.

Independent Claim 33 as amended is directed to a network terminal capable of being accessed by at least one data reproduction device having means for interfacing with a portable memory device, the portable memory device including a reference to reproduction data stored in the network terminal. The network terminal includes means for

storing the reproduction data, and means for receiving a request for the reproduction data from the at least one data reproduction device. The network terminal also includes means for determining whether to convert the reproduction data to a format compatible with the reproduction device, and means for converting the reproduction data based on the result of a determination by the determination means. In addition, the network terminal includes means for sending the reproduction data to the reproduction device. The reproduction data being requested and sent satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, the selection criteria being included in a rule set. In addition, the selection criteria is used to determine whether to reproduce the reproduction data.

Independent Claim 40 as amended is directed to a method for reproducing data using a terminal connected to a network having plural types of reproduction devices each having data format requirements. The method includes the steps of storing the reproduction data, and sending access information corresponding to the reproduction data for storage in a portable memory device. The method also includes the steps of receiving a request for reproduction data determined to satisfy selection criteria for selecting reproduction data, the selection criteria being included in a rule set. In addition, the method includes the step of sending the reproduction data for reproduction by the requested reproduction device. The selection criteria is used to determine whether to reproduce the reproduction data.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Tan is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that a determination of whether to reproduce reproduction data is based on

whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, wherein the selection criteria is included within a rule set.

As understood by Applicants, Tan discloses a distributed printing system in which job requests are distributed based on information about the particular attributes of each output device. See Tan; Abstract. Tan describes that the distributed printing system uses objects to represent various entities, with an object containing a collection of attributes. One attribute of a printer is a printer state, which indicates the current status of the printer, such as "idle" or "printing". See Tan, column 4, lines 1 to 22. The printer state can also be set to "saturated", which indicates that the printer cannot accept further jobs. See Tan, column 5, line 62 to column 6, line 4.

As such, Tan is seen to disclose that job requests are distributed based on the attributes of an output device, such as the printer state of a printer. However, nothing in Tan is seen to disclose or suggest that a determination of whether to reproduce reproduction data is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data. In Tan, it is an attribute of an output device, such as a "saturated" printer state of a printer, upon which the distribution of job requests are based. This is different than the present invention, which looks to whether reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data. Moreover, Tan is not seen to disclose or suggest that such selection criteria is included within a rule set. Accordingly, Tan is not seen to disclose or suggest that a determination of whether to reproduce reproduction data is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, wherein the selection criteria is included within a rule set.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 33 and 40 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested to receive initialled copies of the Forms PTO-1449 that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements dated September 13, 2000 and December 13, 2001.

In addition, approval of the formal drawings filed on December 20, 2004 is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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